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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 2956
RUEHDH/AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY 0455
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 0565

S E C R E T RIYADH 000108

NOFORN
SENSITIVE
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FOR JARRETT BLANC -- S/SRAP, TOM GRAMAGLIA AND CAROLYN
COBERLY -- SCA/A, LONDON FOR GREG BERRY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/25/2020
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [AF](#) [SA](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE RESPONSE: OUTREACH ON AFGHANISTAN
CONFERENCE

REF: SECSTATE 06355

Classified By: Ambassador James B. Smith for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

SUMMARY

1. (C) DCM met with Dr. Raed Krimly, MFA Director of Western Affairs, on January 25 to discuss U.S. priorities for the January 28 London Conference on Afghanistan and solicit Saudi support for these goals per reftel. Econ Counselor also met separately with Deputy Finance Minister for Economic Affairs Sulaiman Al-Turki to discuss this issue on the same day. Both expressed broad support for U.S. goals and priorities, but Krimly suggested it may be "too early" to expect the Saudis to make a public commitment to the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund. END SUMMARY.

MFA: BROAD SUPPORT FOR U.S. OBJECTIVES,
BUT SOME THINGS ARE COMING "TOO SOON"

2. (C) Krimly said he would travel with FM Prince Saud Al-Faisal to attend the meeting on Afghanistan in London on the 28th. They would leave for Paris on the evening of the 25th, and continue on to London on the morning of the 27th. They were slated to attend the Yemen ministerial earlier in the day, and the Afghanistan conference dinner event that evening.

3. (C) FM Prince Saud Al-Faisal could be expected to lay out the SAG's position on Afghanistan "briefly and concisely" during his speech at the conference, Krimly said. This would include voicing support for Afghan reconciliation, including Afghan-led reintegration efforts aimed at former low- and mid- level members of the Taliban and other insurgent groups. However, he doubted that FM Saud would directly address the financial aspects of the reintegration efforts, such as the establishment of an international trust fund. It was "too soon," Krimly explained, and they "needed more time...a decision such as this would have to be made by the King."

4. (S/NF) Krimly then cautioned against forgetting Afghanistan's history of decentralized government as we discussed the transition of security-related responsibilities, and suggested there may be opportunities to deepen U.S.-Saudi cooperation aimed at the political reintegration of the Pashtun community.

DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER: SAG COMMITTED, BUT CONCERNED

15. (SBU) In a separate meeting, Deputy Finance Minister for Economic Affairs Sulaiman Al-Turki told Econ Counselor that the SAG remains committed to stabilizing Afghanistan and the region, but is deeply concerned about several domestic issues, including corruption and narcotics trafficking. He had no further substantive comment in response to reftel points.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT

16. (C) My assessment is that the Saudis will fully support the President's strategy on Afghanistan. It shows a cultural awareness about a problem where the Saudis have some experience. In my view, it is entirely consistent with both King Abdulaziz's strategy for unifying the warring tribes in Saudi Arabia, as well as the MOI's counterterrorism strategy after the bombings in 2003. We should address with FM Prince Saud the possibility of an ongoing dialogue with the Saudis about how best to execute our Af/Pak strategy, and focus first on establishing a "brain trust" fund, i.e., a way to learn from the Saudis' experience with these issues. A monetary trust fund would follow logically, with them as a partner. END AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT.
SMITH